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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

TS 206639/75

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12 MAY 1975

The Honorable Fred C. Ikle
Director
United States Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Fred:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 1975 in which you expressed concern about the capabilities of intelligence to verify Soviet compliance with a possible limitation on cruise missiles in a SALT II agreement. I agree that in reviewing our monitoring capabilities we should focus particular attention on determining the technical characteristics of Soviet cruise missiles.

Well before the current SALT negotiations thrust the subject of "strategic" cruise missiles into the limelight, the Intelligence Community was devoting considerable effort to determining the technical characteristics of Soviet anti-ship, naval cruise missiles--which constitute the bulk of the Soviet cruise missiles now operational or under development. I regard the problem of determining the characteristics of future Soviet "strategic" cruise missiles which might be limited by a SALT II agreement as an extension of the efforts we already have underway.

--In 1972, based on recommendations of the Critical Collection Problems Committee, the USIB assigned Priority 1 status to collection, processing and analysis of anti-ship missile intelligence. This subject continues to have Priority 1 status.

--Since 1972 collection initiatives and better use of existing resources have resulted in improvements in our knowledge of naval cruise missile systems.

--The Chairman of the Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee was directed by the USIB to report periodically to the Board on progress made and on the current state-of-knowledge of Soviet anti-ship cruise missile systems. The latest such report was submitted to the USIB in February 1975.

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE 7-10.1)

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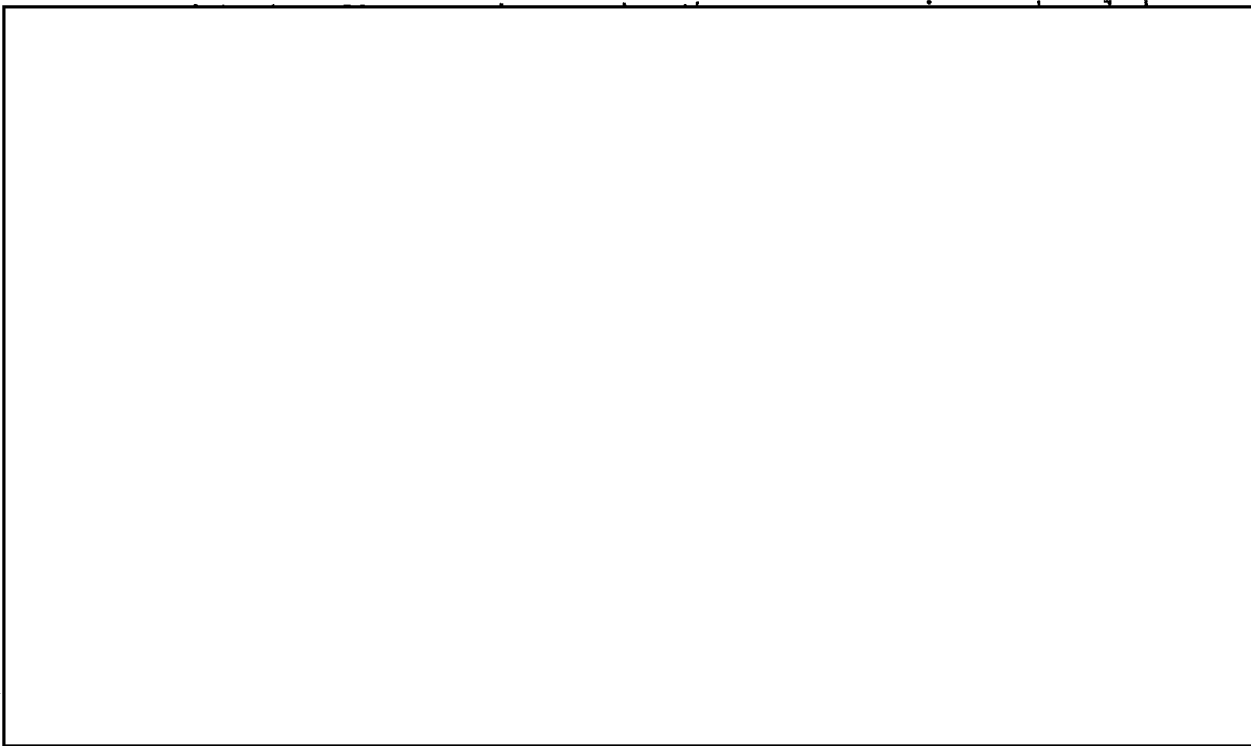
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TS 206639/75

--Also, the characteristics and performance of naval cruise
missiles is covered [REDACTED]

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Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

Attachment:
TS 206601/75

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